

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-33 and 37-96 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1-33 have been amended; claims 34-36 have been canceled; and claims 37-96 have been added. No new matter has been added.

**Objections to the Specification**

In Section 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract. The abstract has been amended, thereby obviating the objection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

**Rejection of Claims 1-33**

In Section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-33 for having insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “one of said the second data busses”.

Claims 1-33 have been amended, thereby obviating this rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

**§102 Rejection of Claims 34 and 35**

In Section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wakai *et al.* (hereinafter referred to as “Wakai”).

Claims 34-36 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Newly-added Claims 37-96

Claims 37-96 have been added to further claim embodiments described in the Specification. Claims 37, 39, 48, 57, 68, 77, and 86 are independent claims.

Claim 37 is directed to a method to deliver data packets within a distributed network, which comprises an interface link layer device connected to a first data bus and via a transmission path to at least one other interface link layer device that is connected to a respective second data bus of a plurality of second data busses.

Claims 39, 48, and 57 are directed to a portal for interfacing a first data bus to a data interface.

Claims 68, 77, and 86 are directed to a method for interfacing a first data bus to a data interface via a portal.

Accordingly, these newly-added claims should be allowable over the cited prior art references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1-33 and 37-96 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes

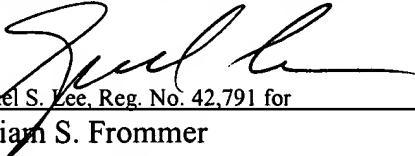
were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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